

**Setting up of Skill Development Fund**

†1593. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up Skill Development Fund (SDF) or to formulate any such scheme, for increasing skill of labourers in various parts of the country and for increasing production, especially in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up 'Skill Development Fund' initiated by the Government for augmentation of training infrastructure facilities in the country could not be finalized as it was not encouraged by the stake holders.

However, following steps have been taken to upgrade the skill of workers in various parts of the country including the State of Orissa:

- (i) 500 ITIs are being upgraded as Centres of Excellence;
- (ii) A scheme namely 'Establishment of new ITIs in the North Eastern States, Sikkim, and J&K' is being implemented;
- (iii) A scheme of testing and certification of skills of workers engaged in the informal sector has been started.

**Violation of Labour Laws in IT sector**

1594. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any cases of violation of Labour Laws in the IT sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that workers in that sector are forced to work from 9-12 hours a day, and they are not paid for the excess hours; and

(c) if so, the details for the last three years, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.